

## Poetry.

### "HE MAKETH THE STORM A CALM."

O Lord, how wild the night is !  
I cannot walk alone.  
The sin within me frightens,  
As oft from Thee I roam.  
The dark, cold blast of winter,  
The shiv'ring of the trees !  
Dear Lord, the cold is bitter,  
And drear the sighing breeze.

I long to have more likeness  
To Thy sweet wondrous grace ;  
I long to see the brightness  
Of my Redeemer's face ;  
But clouds so often gather,  
And raindrops wildly fall.  
O kind and heavenly Father !  
They hang there like a pall.

I pause, for, *look !* the glory  
Of yon silver, golden bow  
Still whispereth the story  
Of One who knows my woe.  
The silver, shining, telleth  
The sweetness of His grace ;  
The gold, that glory dwelleth  
In the dear Saviour's face.

And now my soul it husheth  
In calm and sweet repose ;  
I lay the weight that crusheth  
Aside, for Jesus knows.  
"Let not your heart be troubled"  
By the dark billows' foam ;  
For though the storm be doubled,  
It bloweth, ever, *home*.

—*Help and Food.*

## Contributions.

### APPOINTMENT OF PASTORAL CHARGES.

J. C. MACKEY.

As I understand the subject assigned by your committee it may be rendered, "*The appointment of pastors over charges*" There is, however, an ambiguity in its construction, inasmuch as it could also be taken to mean, "*The ecclesiastical establishment of single charges or the arrangement of those, in suitable proximity, into joint-pastorates.*" In the absence of definite advices as to what was intended by your own committee to be brought out, I have concluded to view the subject as first stated, viz, "*The appointment of pastors over charges ;*" but may indirectly touch, upon its latter aspect, or, "*The ecclesiastical establishments and arrangements of congregations.*"

The first thought in the analysis is, "*The source of authority.*" This is without question, the church, the local church, if you please, to whom the pastor is responsible. But we will agree that, for the purposes of more able management, it may be well to combine forces, and in so important a matter as the settlement of a pastor it is eminently proper for two or more charges to unite in determining,

through their representatives, who may be eligible and suited for the work of respective fields. This combination of power is already provided for in our church by the district conferences or conventions, so that no especially new organization is needed on this line.

The second reference is to pastors. These should be eligible, able, and authorized.

And lastly, charges which may only hope to fulfil their important mission when well arranged as to numerical strength, financial competency, and local proximity.

In view hereof we offer the following :

I. That this National Conference of the Brethren church hand down to each district conference or convention to be transmitted to each local congregation under its inspection, with instructions to report to the secretary of her conference or convention at least thirty days before the next coming sessions of said conference or convention, the question, "*Shall the following system of appointment of pastors over charges be adopted ?*" The secretaries of district conferences or conventions to report the result of the vote on these memorials to the secretary of the National Conference, at least ten days prior to the date of its next session in 1896.

II. *Subject of Transmission to District Conference or Conventions with which to memorialize each local congregation.*

1. That a committee of five be appointed by the district conference or convention, to arrange the several local churches under its inspection in charges on the basis of proximity and numerical and financial strength ; and to prepare a list of ministers to be known as the active list from which pastors may be appointed. Said committee, also, with the aid and approval of each local charge, to fix the sum per annum to be contributed to the support of pastors over the several congregations, and to encourage such pastorates to place their ministers beyond the vexations incidental to incompetent support.

2. That the only question to be put by the committee, herein before provided to ministers already in good standing in the church, shall be, "*Are you willing to devote your best energies to the work of the pulpit and pastorate ?*" (Ministers in full communion not on the active list may be entered thereon at any time on application to conference or convention and answering the above question.)

3. Should the church, by a majority of churches, express her willingness that

a system of Conference or Convention appointments be adopted, the District Conference or Convention shall proceed, at either a regular meeting, or a session called at a suitable time for the purpose, to appoint a stationing committee of five members, (three ministers and two laymen,) who shall serve during one Conference or Convention year, to designate pastors for the several local charges, these pastors to be taken from the active list, as herein before provided.

4. That there shall be no limit to the number of years a minister may serve any one pastorate, but his appointment shall be from year to year and only through the stationing committee.

5. That the call and preparation of ministers shall be provided for according to the following revision and application of brother A. D. Gnagey's paper presented to the National Conference of 1892.

(1.) The District Conference or Convention shall elect a Board of Examiners, consisting of three members, to serve for a term of three years, except in case of the first election, one to be elected for one year, one for two years, and one for three years; this Board to organize with a president, secretary and treasurer, to prepare and revise from time to time the course of study, to conduct all examinations of candidates for the ministry, and perform other duties herein after defined.

(2.) Each congregation shall elect a Board of local examiners, consisting of three members, to serve for a term of three years, to be elected in the manner prescribed in article (1) whose duty it shall be to encourage available talent for the ministry, the pastor of the congregation to be the chairman of this board.

(3.) Candidates for the ministry shall apply to the Local Board, make known their intention to enter the office of the holy ministry, and state their reason for believing that they have received a divine call.

(4.) The Local Board shall examine into the spiritual fitness of the candidate, his aptness to teach and other New Testament qualifications, and, if found favorable, shall so report to the congregation, which may by a majority vote license him as a probationer, after which he shall enter upon the course of study prepared by the District Board and designated. "*The Preparatory Course—One year.*"

(5.) When said course is completed, the candidate shall present himself to the Board of District examiners at the annual session of Conference or Convention, for examination, if he pass satisfactorily, the Conference or Convention shall ordain